

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An integrated access port assembly comprising in combination:
an access port having an attachable catheter and a self-sealing septum;
said assembly having one or more sealable entry sites disposed therein, at least one of which
comprises a guidewire entry site adapted to accept and permit withdrawal of a guidewire or stylet
and direct it into said catheter thereby facilitating placement of the catheter.
2. The access port assembly according to claim 1 wherein said guidewire entry site
is a portion of said self-sealing septum.
3. The access port assembly according to claim 1 wherein the access port includes
a reservoir which is in flow communication with a first lumen of said catheter.
4. The access port assembly according to claim 1 wherein said guidewire entry site
is a second self-sealing septum in said access port.
5. The access port assembly according to claim 1 wherein said guidewire entry site
is a predetermined area in said access port.
6. The access port assembly of claim 1 wherein said guidewire entry site is disposed
in said catheter.
7. The access port assembly according to claim 1, wherein the catheter has a second
lumen extending along a portion of the catheter and the guidewire entry site comprises an
opening into the second lumen.
8. The access port assembly according to claim 7, wherein said opening is
intermediate the attached access port and a distal end of the catheter.

9. The access port assembly according to claim 1, wherein the catheter includes a reinforced portion adjacent the access port.

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10. An access port device comprising:
a body portion having an upper body, a lower body attachable to the upper body,
and a self-sealing septum between the upper and lower bodies;
an outlet for fixedly attaching a catheter to the central body portion; and
a guidewire entry site disposed in the upper body for inserting a guidewire into
the septum and into said outlet.

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11. The access port according to claim 10, wherein a reservoir is formed between the self-sealing access septum and the lower body and said catheter is in flow communication with the reservoir through said outlet.

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12. The access port according to claim 10, wherein the upper body has an access site disposed therein.

13. An access port device comprising:
a body having a self-sealing first access septum disposed in a top portion of the body;
an outlet for fixedly attaching a catheter to the central body;
a self-sealing second septum disposed in the body for inserting a guidewire through the body and into the outlet.

14. The access port according to claim 13, wherein a reservoir is formed in the body and is in flow communication with the catheter through the outlet.

15. The access port according to claim 14, wherein the outlet has an axis therethrough and the second septum is disposed opposite the outlet along the outlet axis.

16. The access port according to claim 13, wherein the catheter includes a reinforced portion adjacent the access port.

17. The access port according to claim 13, wherein the body portion is made of one of titanium, acetal, and polysulfone and the septums are made of silicone.

18. An access port assembly comprising:
an access port having a self-sealing access septum;
a catheter fixedly attachable to the access port, the catheter having a first lumen in flow communication with the port when attached to the access port and a second lumen having an entry site adapted to accept a guidewire into the second lumen.

19. The access port according to claim 18, wherein said entry site is an opening intermediate the access port and a distal end of the catheter.

20. The access port according to claim 18, wherein the catheter includes a reinforced portion adjacent the access port.

21. The access port according to claim 18, wherein said entry site is a slit in the catheter, the slit extending substantially the length of the catheter.

22. The access port according to claim 18, wherein the slit has a width smaller than the guidewire.

23. An access port comprising:
an access port body including a reservoir;
an outlet in flow communication with the reservoir for attaching the access port body to a catheter;
a rigid insert positioned in the bottom portion of the reservoir.
24. The access port according to claim 23, wherein the rigid insert extends into the outlet.
25. The access port according to claim 23, wherein the reservoir has a periphery and the rigid insert extends upward around the periphery.
26. The access port according to claim 23, wherein the rigid insert includes an opening in the upward extension allowing a guidewire to be passed therethrough.
27. The access port according to claim 23, wherein the rigid insert has a narrowing area adjacent the outlet.
28. An access port device comprising:
a body having a self-sealing first access septum disposed in a top portion of the body;
an outlet disposed in the body for fixedly attaching a catheter; and
a self-sealing second septum disposed in the body for inserting a guidewire through the body and outlet and into the catheter when attached to the access port.
29. The access port according to claim 28, wherein a reservoir is formed in the body and is in flow communication with the catheter through the outlet.

30. The access port according to claim 28, wherein the outlet has an axis therethrough and the second septum is disposed opposite the outlet along the outlet axis.

31. A method for inserting an access port fixedly attached to a catheter into a body comprising the steps of:

inserting a guidewire into a means for directing the guidewire into the catheter;

inserting the guidewire into the body;

manipulating the catheter and access port over the guidewire to place the distal end of the catheter at the desired location;

removing the guidewire from the patient and access port; and

inserting and securing the access port in the body.

32. A method for inserting an access port fixedly attached to a catheter into a body comprising the steps of:

inserting a guidewire into the body;

inserting a proximal end of the guidewire into a means for directing the guidewire into the catheter while the guidewire is in the body;

manipulating the catheter and access port over the guidewire to place the distal end of the catheter at the desired location;

removing the guidewire from the patient and access port; and

inserting and securing the access port in the body.

33. A method for inserting an access port assembly comprising an access port fixedly attached to a catheter into a body comprising the steps of:

inserting a guidewire into an entry site in said assembly to direct the guidewire through the catheter;

inserting the guidewire into the body;

manipulating said assembly over the inserted guidewire to place the distal end of the catheter at the desired location in the body;

removing the guidewire through said entry site from the assembly and body;

securing the assembly in the body.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein said entry site is in the catheter.

35. An access port having a body substantially made of a penetrable self-sealing material and having an outlet for fixedly attaching a catheter in fluid communication with a reservoir disposed within said body, said reservoir having a rigid insert positioned at least along the bottom thereof.

36. The access port of claim 35 wherein said rigid insert extends up the side of said reservoir accommodating said catheter outlet and up the side of the reservoir opposing said catheter outlet.

37. The access port of claim 35 wherein said rigid insert extends up all sides of said reservoir to form a tray shape.

38. The access port of claim 36 wherein the side portion of said rigid insert extending opposite the catheter outlet has a sealable access hole therein.

39. The access port of claim 37 wherein the side portion of said rigid insert extending opposite the catheter outlet has a sealable access hole therein.

40. The access port of claim 36 wherein said side extensions of said insert slope inwardly downward and the side extension opposite the catheter outlet has a sealable access hole therein.

41. The access port of claim 37 wherein said side extensions of said insert slope inwardly downward and the side extension opposite the catheter outlet has a sealable access hole therein.

42. An access port having a body substantially made of a rigid, impenetrable material and having an outlet for fixedly attaching a catheter in fluid communication with a reservoir disposed within said body; said body having a self sealing penetrable septum disposed in the upper portion thereof and a removable access panel disposed in the bottom portion thereof to provide access to said reservoir.

43. An access port having a body substantially made of a rigid impenetrable material and having an outlet for fixedly attaching a catheter in fluid communication with a reservoir disposed within said body; said body having a self sealing penetrable septum disposed in the upper portion thereof and a closeable port in said body opposite said catheter outlet and substantially in alignment therewith providing outside entry to said reservoir.

44. The access port of claim 43 wherein said port is closed by a threaded bolt or screw.